

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NATASHA JAMES-ENGLAND,

No. C- 11-3977 JSC

Plaintiff,

PRETRIAL ORDER

v.

UNITED INSURANCE CO. OF AMERICA, et
al.,

Defendants.

Following the Case Management Conference held on December 15, 2011, IT IS HEREBY
ORDERED THAT:

I. TRIAL DATE

A. Jury trial will begin on **January 14, 2013, at 8:30 a.m.**, in Courtroom F, 15th Floor,
U.S. District Court, 450 Golden Gate, San Francisco, California.

B. The Court is expecting the length of the trial to not exceed seven court days.

II. SCHEDULING AND THE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

The Court adopts the Schedule proposed by the parties in their joint case management
statement (Dkt. No. 17) except that the last day to hear dispositive motions will be Thursday,
October 11, 2012 and a Final Pretrial Conference shall be held on Thursday, **December 6, 2012, at
2:00 p.m.**, in Courtroom F, 15th Floor. Each party shall attend by lead trial counsel.

A. **Seven days** prior to date of the Final Pretrial Conference the parties shall do the
following:

1. In lieu of preparing a Joint Pretrial Conference Statement, the parties shall
meet and confer in person, and then prepare and file at least **seven days** before the Pretrial
Conference a jointly signed Proposed Final Pretrial Order that contains: (a) a brief description of the

1 substance of claims and defenses which remain to be decided; (b) a statement of all relief sought; (c)
2 all stipulated facts; (d) a joint exhibit list in numerical order, including a brief description of the
3 exhibit and Bates numbers, a blank column for when it will be offered into evidence, a blank column
4 for when it may be received into evidence, and a blank column for any limitations on its use; and (e)
5 each party's separate witness list for its case-in-chief witnesses (including those appearing by
6 deposition), including, for all such witnesses (other than party plaintiffs or defendants), a short
7 statement of the substance of his/her testimony and, separately, what, if any, non-cumulative
8 testimony the witness will offer. For each witness, state an hour/minute time estimate for the direct
9 examination (only). Items (d) and (e) should be submitted as appendices to the proposed order. The
10 proposed order should also state which issues, if any, are for the Court to decide, rather than the
11 jury.

12 2. File a joint set of proposed instructions on substantive issues of law arranged
13 in a logical sequence. If undisputed, an instruction shall be identified as "Stipulated Instruction No.
14 ____ Re _____," with the blanks filled in as appropriate. If disputed, each version of the
15 instruction shall be inserted together, back to back, in their logical place in the overall sequence.
16 Each such disputed instruction shall be identified as, for example, "Disputed Instruction No. ____
17 Re _____ Offered by _____," with the blanks filled in as appropriate. All
18 disputed versions of the same basic instruction shall bear the same number. Any modifications to a
19 form instruction must be plainly identified. If a party does not have a counter version and simply
20 contends that no such instruction in any version should be given, then that party should so state (and
21 explain why) on a separate page inserted in lieu of an alternate version. With respect to form
22 preliminary instructions, general instructions, or concluding instructions, please simply cite to the
23 numbers of the requested instructions in the current edition of the *Ninth Circuit Model Jury*
24 *Instructions*. Other than citing the numbers, the parties shall not include preliminary, general, or
25 concluding instructions in the packet.

26 3. File a separate memorandum of law in support of each party's disputed
27 instructions, if any, organized by instruction number.
28

1 4. File a joint set of proposed voir dire questions supplemented as necessary by
2 separate requests.

3 5. File trial briefs on any controlling issues of law.

4 6. File proposed verdict forms, joint or separate.

5 7. File and serve any objections to exhibits.

6 8. File a joint simplified Statement of the Case to be read to the jury during voir
7 dire as part of the proposed jury instructions. Unless the case is extremely complex, this statement
8 should not exceed one page.

9 B. Any motions in limine shall be submitted as follows: at least twenty (20) calendar
10 days before the conference, the moving party shall serve, but not file, the opening brief. At least ten
11 (10) calendar days before the conference, the responding party shall serve the opposition. There will
12 be no reply. When the oppositions are received, the moving party should collate the motion and the
13 opposition together, back-to-back, and then file the paired sets at least seven (7) calendar days
14 before the conference. Each motion should be presented in a separate memorandum and properly
15 identified, for example, "Plaintiff's Motion in Limine No. 1 to Exclude" Each party is limited
16 to bringing five motions in limine. The parties are encouraged to stipulate where possible, for
17 example, as to the exclusion of witnesses from the courtroom. Each motion should address a single,
18 separate topic, and contain no more than seven pages of briefing per side.

19 C. Hard-copy courtesy copies of the above documents shall be delivered by NOON the
20 day after filing. The Joint Proposed Final Pretrial Order, jury instructions, and verdict form shall be
21 submitted via e-mail as attachments to JSCpo@cand.uscourts.gov. The Court requests that all hard-
22 copy submissions be three-hole-punched.

23 **III. PRETRIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

24 A. Should a daily transcript and/or real-time reporting be desired, the parties shall make
25 arrangements with Debra Campbell, Supervisor of the Court Reporting Services, at (415) 522-2079,
26 at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the trial date.

27 B. During trial, counsel may wish to use overhead projectors, laser-disk/computer
28 graphics, poster blow-ups, models, or specimens of devices. Equipment should be shared by all

1 counsel to the maximum extent possible. The Court provides no equipment other than an easel. The
2 United States Marshal requires a court order to allow equipment into the courthouse. For electronic
3 equipment, parties should be prepared to maintain the equipment or have a technician handy at all
4 times. The parties shall tape extension cords to the carpet for safety. The parties may work with the
5 deputy clerk, Ada Means (415-522-2015), on all courtroom-layout issues.

6 **SCHEDULING**

7 Trial will be conducted from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 or 2:30 p.m., depending on the preference of
8 the jury and the parties, Monday through Friday, excluding Thursdays. Counsel must arrive by 8:15
9 a.m., or earlier as needed for any matters to be heard out of the presence of the jury. The jury will
10 be called at 8:30 a.m. Jury deliberations will be allowed on Thursdays.

11 **THE JURY**

12 In civil cases, there are no alternate jurors and the jury is selected as follows:
13 Eighteen jurors are called to fill the jury box and the row in front of the bar, and are given numbers
14 (1 through 18). The remaining potential jurors will be seated in the public benches. Hardship
15 excuses will usually be considered at this point. The Court will then ask questions of those in the
16 box and in the front of the bar. Counsel may then conduct a limited voir dire. Challenges for cause
17 will then be addressed out of the presence of the potential jurors. The Court will consider whether to
18 fill in the seats of the stricken jurors. If so, questions will be asked of the additional jurors and cause
19 motions as to them will be considered. After a short recess, each side may exercise its allotment of
20 peremptory challenges out of the presence of the potential jurors. The eight (or such other size as
21 will constitute the jury) surviving the challenge process with the lowest numbers become the final
22 jury. For example, if the plaintiff strikes 1, 5, and 7 and the defendant strikes 2, 4, and 9, then 3, 6,
23 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 become the final jury. If more (or fewer) than eight jurors are to be seated,
24 then the starting number will be adjusted. So too if more than a total of six peremptories are
25 allowed. Once the jury selection is completed, the jurors' names will be read again and they will be
26 seated in the jury box and sworn. The Court may alter this procedure in its discretion and after
27 consultation with the parties.

28 **WITNESSES**

At the close of each trial day, all counsel shall exchange a list of witnesses for the next two full court days and the exhibits that will be used during direct examination (other than for impeachment of an adverse witness). Within 24 hours of such notice, all other counsel shall provide any objections to such exhibits and shall provide a list of all exhibits to be used with the same witness on cross-examination (other than for impeachment). The first notice shall be exchanged prior to the first day of trial. All such notices shall be provided in writing.

EXHIBITS

A. Prior to the Final Pretrial Conference, counsel must meet and confer in person to consider all exhibit numbers and objections and to eliminate duplicate exhibits and confusion over the precise exhibit.

B. Use numbers only, not letters, for exhibits, preferably the same numbers as were used in depositions. Blocks of numbers should be assigned to fit the need of the case (*e.g.*, Plaintiff has 1 to 100, Defendant A has 101 to 200, Defendant B has 201 to 300, etc.). A single exhibit should be marked only once. If the plaintiff has marked an exhibit, then the defendant should not re-mark the exact document with another number. Different *versions* of the same document, *e.g.*, a copy with additional handwriting, must be treated as different exhibits with different numbers. To avoid any party claiming “ownership” of an exhibit, all exhibits shall be marked and referred to as “Trial Exhibit No. _____,” not as “Plaintiff’s Exhibit” or “Defendant’s Exhibit.”

C. The exhibit tag shall be in the following form:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TRIAL EXHIBIT 100

Case No. _____

Date Entered _____

By _____
Deputy Clerk

1 Counsel preferably will make the tag up in a color that will stand out (yet still allow for
2 photocopying), but that is not essential. Place the tag on or near the lower right-hand corner or,
3 if a photograph, on the back. Counsel should fill in the tag but leave the last two spaces blank.
4 The parties must jointly prepare a *single* set of all trial exhibits that will be the official record set
5 to be used with the witnesses and on appeal. Each exhibit must be tagged, three-hole-punched,
6 separated with a label divider identifying the exhibit number, and placed in 3-ring binders. Spine
7 labels should indicate the numbers of the exhibits that are in the binders. Each set of exhibit binders
8 should be marked as “Original.” Deposit the exhibits with the deputy clerk seven (7) days before
9 the Pretrial Conference.

10 D. Counsel must consult with each other and with the deputy clerk at the end of each
11 trial day and compare notes as to which exhibits are in evidence and any limitations thereon. If there
12 are any differences, counsel should bring them promptly to the Court’s attention.

13 E. In addition to the official record exhibits, a *single, joint* set of bench binders
14 containing a copy of the exhibits must be provided to the Court seven (7) days before the Pretrial
15 Conference, and should be marked as “Chambers Copies.” Each exhibit must be separated with a
16 label divider identifying the exhibit number. (An exhibit tag is unnecessary for the bench set.)
17 Spine labels should indicate the numbers of the exhibits that are in the binders.

18 F. Before the closing arguments, counsel must confer with the deputy clerk to make
19 sure the exhibits in evidence are in good order.

20 G. Exhibit notebooks for the jury will not be permitted without prior permission from
21 the Court. Publication must be by poster blow-up, overhead projection, or such other method as is
22 allowed in the circumstances. It is permissible to highlight, circle or underscore in the enlargements
23 as long as it is clear that it was not on the original.

24 CHARGING CONFERENCE

25 As the trial progresses and the evidence is heard, the Court will fashion a comprehensive set
26 of jury instructions to cover all issues actually being tried. Prior to the close of the evidence, the
27 Court will provide a draft final charge to the parties. After a reasonable period for review, one or
28 more charging conferences will be held at which each party may object to any passage, ask for

1 modifications, or ask for additions. Any instruction request must be renewed specifically at the
2 conference or it will be deemed waived, whether or not it was requested prior to trial. If, however, a
3 party still wishes to request an omitted instruction after reviewing the Court's draft, then it must
4 affirmatively re-request it at the charging conference in order to give the Court a fair opportunity to
5 correct any error. Otherwise, as stated, the request will be deemed abandoned or waived.

6 Per the agreement of the parties, private mediation will be completed on or before June 15,
7 2012.

8 If the case is still ongoing, the parties will appear for a case management conference on July
9 19, 2012 at 1:30 pm and a joint case management statement shall be filed by July 12, 2012.

10
11 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

12
13 Dated: December 15, 2011

14 
15 JACQUELINE SCOTT CORLEY
16 United States Magistrate Judge
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

CONFIDENTIALJUROR QUESTIONNAIRE

Please fill out this form as completely as possible and print clearly. Since we want to make copies for the attorneys and the Court, do not write on the back of any page. If you need more room, continue at the bottom or on the side of the page. Thank you for your cooperation.

1. Your name: _____
2. Your age: _____
3. City in which you reside: _____
4. Your place of birth: _____
5. Do you rent or own your own home? _____
6. Are you married or do you have a domestic partner? ____ Yes ____ No
7. Please list the occupation of your spouse or domestic partner. _____
8. If you are not married and do not have a domestic partner, are you (circle one, if applicable):
 single separated divorced widowed
9. If you have children, please list their ages and sex and, if they are employed, please give their occupations.

10. What is your occupation and how long have you worked in it? (If you are retired, please describe your main occupation when you were working).

11. Who is (or was) your employer? _____
12. How long have you worked for this employer? _____
13. Please describe your education background:
 Highest grade completed: _____
 College and/or vocational schools you have attended: _____

 Major areas of study: _____
14. Have you ever had jury experience? ____ Number of times? ____
 If yes: State/County Court _____ Federal Court _____
 When? _____ Was it a civil or criminal case? ____
 Did any of the juries reach a verdict ? ____ Yes ____ No